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DEGUENTHER, Markus [DE/DE]; Liebigstrasse 2,
73432 Aalen (DE).

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(74) Agent: **MÜLLER-RISSMANN, Werner**; Carl Zeiss AG,
Patentabteilung, Carl-Zeiss-Str. 22, 73447 Oberkochen
(DE).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CARL
ZEISS SMT AG** [DE/DE]; Carl-Zeiss-Strasse 22, 73447
Oberkochen (DE).

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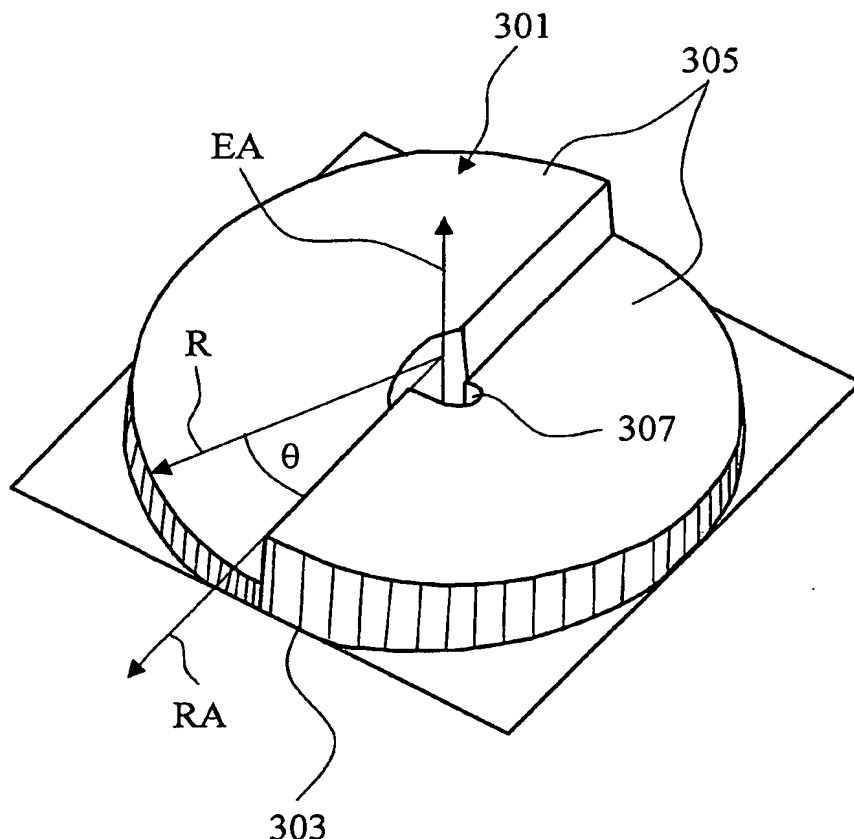
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **FIOLKA, Damian**
[DE/DE]; Heckenrosenweg 36, 73446 Oberkochen (DE).

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(54) Title: **POLARIZATION-MODULATING OPTICAL ELEMENT**



(57) Abstract: A polarization-modulating optical element (1) consisting of an optically active crystal material has a thickness profile where the thickness, as measured in the direction of the optical axis, varies over the area of the optical element. The polarization-modulating optical element (1) has the effect that the plane of oscillation of a first linearly polarized light ray and the plane of oscillation of a second linearly polarized light ray are rotated, respectively, by a first angle of rotation and a second angle of rotation, with the first angle of rotation and the second angle of rotation being different from each other.



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